

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2005, claims 9, 10, 13-15 and 17 are amended. Claims 9-15, and 17 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claim 15 is objection to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 9, 11, 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Oki (JP Patent No. 10-262141)

Claims 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oki in view of Ikenoue et al. (USPN 5,671,277).

II. To expedite prosecution, independent claim 9 is amended to recite:

An image formation apparatus comprising:
an input unit entering image data,
a printer unit printing image data,
a memory storing trigger information to initiate execution of a plurality of control operations in association with said control operations,
a detector detecting additional information including said trigger information from said image data, and
a controller responsive to detection of said trigger information to sequentially execute said control operations corresponding to said trigger information stored in said memory,
wherein ~~one~~ of said control operations include a transmitting print information related to printing of said image data to a destination.

In addition, independent claim 17 is amended to recite:

An image recording apparatus comprising:
an input unit entering image data,
a record unit recording input image data on a recording medium,
a detector detecting additional information from said image data, said
additional information including trigger information to initiate execution of a
plurality of predetermined control operations, and
a controller sequentially executing said predetermined control operations
in response to detection of said trigger information,
wherein said predetermined control operations include a transmission
operation transmitting information related to recording of said image data to a
destination.

The inventions recited in amended independent claims 9 and 17 are characterized in that a plurality of control operations are set in association with respect to one trigger information, and that the plurality of control operations are executed sequentially in response to detection of the trigger information. By incorporating the trigger information into the image data in accordance with such a configuration, the series of control operations to be executed on the original document (the so-called work flow), for example, the operations of printing, counting the number of prints, transmitting the counted number to a predetermined destination, and the like can be executed automatically to provide the significant advantage of improving the usability for the user and ensure security.

Since Oki is completely silent about the concept of setting in association a plurality of control operations with respect to the trigger information, the inventions recited in amended independent claims 9 and 17 are patentable over Oki.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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